

Message Text

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ORIGIN PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 L-03 DODE-00 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20

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L/EA - MR. ROH

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OSD/GC - MR. ALMOND

JCS-J-1 - COL. MCDADE

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R 132051Z DEC 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 243881

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS MARR/TH

SUBJECT: POST EXCHANGE AND RELATED PRIVILEGES IN THAILAND

REF: BANGKOK 16994

1. AMBASSADOR'S DRAFT REPLY TO KRIANGSAK LETTER IS APPROVED
SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING CHANGES AND GUIDANCE:

A. PRINCIPLE 1. EMBASSY SHOULD BE CAREFUL NOT TO
COMMIT THE UNITED STATES TO A MARKING SYSTEM WHICH WILL BE
UNDULY EXPENSIVE OR ADMINISTRATIVELY BURDENSOME. IN
THIS REGARD, WE WONDER WHETHER IT IS NECESSARY TO SPECIFICALLY
REFER TO THE POSSIBILITY OF ETCHING OR ENGRAVING
IDENTITY NUMBERS OR OTHER MARKS ON CERTAIN PX ITEMS. IT
WOULD APPEAR THAT EMBASSY'S COMMENT REGARDING THIS PRIN-
CIPLE WOULD BE SUFFICIENTLY RESPONSIVE IF THE FIFTH AND
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SIXTH SENTENCES WERE REDELETED, AND THE FOURTH SENTENCE

AMENDED BY DELETING THE WORD "INCLUDING" AND SUBSTITUTING THE WORD ,ESPECIALLY." THE SENTENCE FOLLOWING THE FOURTH SENTENCE WOULD THEN BE "IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT ... ETC."

B. PRINCIPLE 2. NEITHER THE KRIANGSAK LETTER NOR THE PROPOSED EMBASSY REPLY ARE CLEAR REGARDING THE CONTINUATION OF PRIVILEGES FOR DOD CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES. EMBASSY REPLY SHOULD STATE DESIRE OF USG TO RETAIN PRIVILEGES FOR THESE

PERSONNEL, CITING NEED TO SUPPORT ALL US CITIZEN EMPLOYEES OF DOD WITH GOODS AND SERVICES AND FACT THAT NO OTHER COUNTRY DISCRIMINATES BETWEEN THE US CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES AND THE MILITARY PERSONNEL OF US DEFENSE FORCES CONCERNING THESE PRIVILEGES. IN ADDITION, OF COURSE, TO ASSURING THESE PRIVILEGES FOR ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY PERSONNEL, EMBASSY SHOULD CONCENTRATE ITS EFFORTS ON RETAINING PRIVILEGES FOR DOD CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES AND US DEFENSE CONTRACTOR PERSONNEL, SINCE LOSS OF PRIVILEGES FOR THESE PERSONS WOULD DIRECTLY AFFECT US DEFENSE MISSION IN THAILAND THROUGH ADVERSE EFFECT ON MORALE OF PEOPLE DOING THE JOB AND, IN THE CASE OF CONTRACTOR PERSONNEL, WOULD RESULT IN HIGHER SUPPORT COSTS BEING PASSED ON TO USG. WHILE WE UNDERSTAND EMBASSY'S DESIRE TO RETAIN PRIVILEGES FOR RETIRED MILITARY PERSONNEL, THE FACT THAT RETIREES ARE NOT EMPLOYED IN ACCOMPLISHMENT OF US DEFENSE MISSION IN THAILAND MEANS THAT RETAINING THEIR PRIVILEGES IS OF LOWEST PRIORITY, AND SHOULD NOT JEOPARDIZE RETENTION OF PRIVILEGES FOR HIGHER PRIORITY PERSONNEL OUTLINED ABOVE.

C. PRINCIPLE 3. EMBASSY SHOULD FIRMLY RESIST ANY EFFORT BY RTG TO ESTABLISH LIMITATIONS ON PURCHASES BASED ON RANK OR PAY GRADE OF THE INDIVIDUAL.

D. PRINCIPLE 5. CONCUR IN EMBASSY'S APPROACH TO THIS PRINCIPLE. EFFORTS TO EQUATE PX, COMMISSARY, AND THAI LOCKER FUND WAREHOUSES TO BONDED WAREHOUSES AND HEREBY TO SUBJECT THEM TO THAI BONDED WAREHOUSE LAWS AND REGULATIONS SHOULD BE FIRMLY RESISTED. SUGGEST SECOND SENTENCE OF COMMENT BE DELETED AND FOLLOWING INSERTED IN LIEU
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THEREOF: ,WE ARE MOST WILLING TO COOPERATE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF APPROPRIATE PROCEDURES FOR THIS PURPOSE."

E. PRINCIPLE 6. IN MOST COUNTRIES WHERE US FORCES ARE STATIONED, PROPERLY AUTHORIZED SALE OF DUTY-FREE GOODS TO PERSONS NOT ENTITLED TO DUTY-FREE PRIVILEGES RESULTS IN OBLIGATION ON PURCHASER REPEAT PURCHASER TO PAY APPLICABLE CUSTOMS DUTIES OR TAXES. WHILE EMBASSY SHOULD

COOPERATE FULLY WITH THAI AUTHORITIES IN DEVELOPMENT PROCEDURES WHICH WILL ASSURE THAT SUCH SALES ARE MADE ONLY WITH APPROVAL OF THAI AUTHORITIES, EVERY EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO SECURE THAI AGREEMENT THAT A PROPERLY CONSUMMATED SALE WILL RESULT IN PAYMENT OF APPLICABLE DUTIES AND TAXES BY THE PURCHASER RATHER THAN THE MEMBER OF THE US

FORCES SELLING THE GOODS. WE ARE ALSO CONCERNED THAT IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PRINCIPLE COULD LEAD TO EFFORTS TO DOCUMENT EVERY PIECE OF PROPERTY OWNED BY US FORCES PERSONNEL, FROM TIME OF ITS IMPORTATION OR ACQUISITION TO TIME OF ITS EXPORTATION OR SALE, AND REQUIRE ACCOUNTING OF ALL PROPERTY AS CONDITION TO DEPARTURE FROM COUNTRY. ATTEMPTS TO IMPLEMENT SUCH A SYSTEM IN OTHER COUNTRIES (E.G., TURKEY, PHILIPPINES) HAVE CREATED HARDSHIPS FOR INDIVIDUALS AND ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN ON US AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES, SINCE SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES AS ERRORS IN BOOK-KEEPING, PROPERTY LOSSES, MISPLACEMENT OF DOCUMENTS, ETC., MAKE IT EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO ADMINISTER SUCH A SYSTEM FAIRLY AND ACCURATELY. EVERY EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO AVOID ESTABLISHMENT OF SUCH A SYSTEM. WE HOPE AN ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION WOULD LEAVE ENFORCEMENT TO USG REGULATORY PROCEDURES, WITH THAI COMPLAINTS BEING BROUGHT TO OUR ATTENTION FOR CORRECTIVE OR DISCIPLINARY ACTION (RATHER THAN CREATE THAI LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE BARRIERS TO DEPARTURES OF INDIVIDUALS).

2. REQUEST THAT EMBASSY KEEP DEPARTMENT INFORMED OF PROGRESS ON THESE TALKS. RUSH

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